

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Med teams pitch in for Haiti response

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Final in a two-part series

At the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force update Mar. 26-27, 128 volunteers were trained in various aspects of disaster response. A highlight of the training was the reports from the volunteers who participated in medical ministry in Haiti on the first teams to visit the earthquake-ravaged country.

Kay Cassibry, executive director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, was the leader of the first medical team to go into Haiti from Mississippi. The team set up their clinic in a church in Port-au-Prince.

"The first day we rode up to the church, and it was Sunday," said Cassibry. "We heard them outside singing before we even got there. I've never heard 'How Great Thou Art' sung like that!"

The team set up an intensive care unit, which was basically a tarp strung across the corner of a room. During that first visit, the team saw over 1200 patients, "and those were just the ones we were able to count," said Cassibry.

"It was amazing to see these doctors and nurses at work," she continued. "God will put you in a place where you never thought He could use you."

Cassibry shared several stories of encounters with the locals. She told of Hersie Davis-Sullivan, who has a family medical practice in South Jackson. "A mother brought in a beautiful little girl who was totally lethargic," Cassibry said. "Dr. Sullivan said, 'I need (an elec-



**GOING UP** — Volunteers with the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force raise the awning on the large feeding truck during a practice session for deployment after a disaster. The training took place at Central Hills Retreat on March 26-27. (Photo by Tony Martin)

tric plug) for a nebulizer,' and the only plug available was at the altar of the church. She wanted to get some air into the lungs of this little girl, because she was barely breathing."

They brought the little girl to the altar. While Sullivan, the girl's mother, and Cassibry held the child, the interpreter prayed as the mother said something in her native Creole language.

"Dr. Sullivan didn't think she was going to make it," Cassibry said, "but then the little girl's eyelids started to flutter. 'I'm going to give her a shot,' Dr. Sullivan said, 'and that will make her mad.' Sure enough, her eyes popped open, she screamed, took a gulp of air, and came back to life."

Cassibry also told the story of Joseph, a young boy about nine years old.

"Joseph and his mother came in, and he was limping, a little bit," said Cassibry. "Turns out his leg had been injured earlier and hadn't been set right. Dr. (Dan) Edney propped it up and took a look at it, and the leg had started to heal back, but there was a knot on top of it. So the doctors decided to cut and see what the problem was. Joseph was in pain but he stuck it out. They cleaned the wound, and we told Joseph's mother that she needed to come back every day and get it cleaned. They reset his leg."

Dr. Edney told the mother through the interpreter that she had to keep the wound clean, because if she didn't, Joseph would have to be taken to the hospital and they were 'amputee' happy — they'd cut off anything. Dr. Edney called me over to the mother and said, 'I'm not getting through to her.' She rattled something off to the interpreter, and

the mother told me 'You can have Joseph. You have taken such good care of him; if you do not take care of him, he will die.'

Cassibry told the mother, "We love Joseph. We absolutely adore him, but we can't. God has given him to you, and He will take care of him."

Edney, a physician and member of First Church, Vicksburg, praised the Mississippi Baptist disaster relief effort.

"The prayers of all of you and everybody back home were powerfully felt, powerfully needed, and powerfully effective," he told the participants at the training event at Central Hills Retreat.

"I've been in some dark places working before, but this one was different. Haiti is a dark place on a good day, and it is not a good day right now. You had a sense you were working in a mausoleum. You have to remember that in less than 40 seconds over 200,000 people were obliterated. You come face to face with someone Christ died for, and that someone is hurting. That someone is starving. We have effective medicine, but we couldn't treat everybody. We couldn't provide water for everybody. You could see the hunger in their eyes and the pain in their faces."

"Port-au-Prince has about a million-and-a-half people left in it," Edney continued. "There's no way to get anything done. They barely have the roads clear. They are trying to get as many people out as they can before the rainy season hits. The Buckets of Hope have been a small way we've been able to help, but right now the medical teams are necessary because people are dying. I'm real proud of Mississippi and the response we've made."

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RICHMOND, Va. (Special)

— The International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention will conduct a missionary appointment service for 21 of Southern Baptists' newest international missionaries at 6:30 p.m. on May 6 at First Church Jackson. The church and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will serve as hosts. The service will feature testimonies from the new missionaries and a charge from native Mississippian Jerry Rankin, IMB president. It will be Rankin's final appointment service as IMB president; he has announced his plans to retire in July and return to Mississippi.



**LIFE-GIVING HELP** — Mississippi physician Hersie Davis-Sullivan (left) administers a nebulizer to an infant Haitian girl who was on the verge of death. Sullivan was one of ten volunteers who were on the first Mississippi Baptist medical team to enter Haiti after the earthquake. (Special to The Baptist Record)



# Seminary leaders comfort Polish people

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — After one of the greatest losses of national leadership in modern Polish history, two Southern Baptist seminary leaders conveyed condolences during two Sunday services in that country on April 11.

As a 10-day trip to Poland was drawing to a close, Midwestern Seminary (MBTS) President R. Philip Roberts and the seminary's academic dean, Jerry A. Johnson, voiced comfort to congregations in Gdansk and Sopot and shared the Gospel with those who were looking for answers to some of life's toughest questions.

"This is an enormous loss for the people of Poland," Roberts said. "Many of the leaders killed in the crash were instrumental in the Solidarity movement. They were the spear point for bringing liberty and democracy to the country."

"There are many in the country asking the question, 'Why?' For the Christians here, there is a great chance to step up and help the people work through their grief and suffering. Now is a time to help them in answering some of life's toughest questions, including the ones about eternity that often surface when events such as this occur."

Roberts preached Sunday in Gdansk, the home city of Polish president Lech Kaczynski, who was among 96 people killed in an April 10 airplane crash in western Russia. Johnson spoke to a congregation in Sopot, the hometown of prime minister Donald Tusk, who was not on board the plane that was carrying numerous other Polish leaders.

In speaking in Gdansk, Roberts used the verse from Matthew 10: 39 (HCSB) where Jesus said, "Anyone finding his life will lose it, and anyone losing



POLAND MOURNS — A makeshift memorial springs up in Poland after the death of Polish president Lech Kaczynski and several other Polish leaders in a plane crash on April 10. (BP special photo via Newscom)

his life because of Me will find it." The MBTS leader continued by adding that "there will be a point when life will end for our physical body on this planet. With this in mind, each of us needs to make sure we are living for the correct reasons and the correct person — Jesus Christ — because He offers the hope of eternal life beyond what we experience in this life on earth."

The Midwestern leaders were in Poland for a conference at the Polish Baptist Seminary in Radosc speaking on the topic of biblical inerrancy and accuracy to an audience of pastors, Christian workers, and theologians.

Also during the trip, Roberts preached the Easter Sunday message at Warsaw Baptist Church.

Roberts recounted that as he was travelling from

Warsaw to Gdansk, President Kaczynski's plane was departing for Smolensk, Russia, where the crash later occurred. Roberts added that upon his return to Warsaw, the Polish president's body was being returned for ceremonies commencing on Sunday.

On Saturday, the Russian airliner carrying the Polish president and his wife Maria and a number of top leaders of Poland's military, political, and business sectors, along with dozens of other dignitaries, crashed as they were traveling to a ceremony commemorating a World War II slaughter of Poles that has divided Poland and Russia for seven decades.

The event is all too familiar to Roberts' wife Anja, a native of Poland who lost an uncle in the 1940 Katyn Forest massacre of 20,000 Polish military officers and civilian leaders by occupying Russian forces. Ironically, the Tupelov airliner went down close to the site of the massacre.

In addition to the president, the military's chief of staff, and the heads of Poland's land forces, navy and air force, other dignitaries on board the plane included the national bank president, three military chaplains, Poland's deputy foreign minister, head of the

National Security Office, deputy parliament speaker, Olympic Committee head, civil rights commissioner, and at least two presidential aides and three lawmakers, the Polish foreign ministry said.

The president of the Polish Baptist Seminary, Andrzej Seweryn, said that many political commentators on television in Poland have been asking the question, "What is God telling us through this tragedy?" He said that the time of soul-searching and reflection on these events presents a great time to share the love of Jesus Christ with the Polish populace.

"This is the time for the churches and pastors in Poland to direct the people toward Jesus Christ," Seweryn said. "With people asking so many hard questions about life and God, we have the opportunity to show them that life does have a purpose, and that purpose comes through a relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Roberts has ties to Eastern Europe in addition to his wife's Polish background, having served as dean of theology for Emmanuel University in Oradea, Romania, where he currently serves as trustee.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

The 2000 Mississippi Christian Performing Arts Festival, held Mar. 24 – 25 at First Church, Brandon, registers a record 514 participants.

### 20 years ago

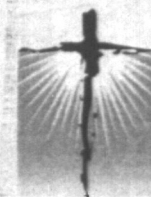
David Montoya, pastor of First Church, Gravette, Ark., and a member of the 1990 SBC nominating committee, announces he will challenge the committee's report at the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans. "I was told... this committee would be inclusive... it was not," he said.

### 50 years ago

U.S. Vice President Richard M. Nixon challenges editors of the Associated Church Press to lend their influence to develop a people who will stand for something.

## Silsby still held

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP) — Laura Silsby, the last remaining Baptist volunteer still in a Haiti prison, entered her 73rd straight day in jail Monday. Last week, one of Silsby's team members, Paul Thompson, released a statement urging concerned citizens to pray for Silsby and also to contact their senators, the U.S. State Department, and the White House and urge them to work for her release. Senators' numbers are available through Senate.gov. The U.S. State Department switchboard number is (202) 647-4000, and the White House comment line is (202) 456-1111. Silsby, Thompson, and eight others were arrested Jan. 30 in Haiti on charges of child kidnapping because they allegedly did not have the proper documentation to cross into the Dominican Republic, where they were taking about 30 children to an orphanage that was being started. The 10 contend they were innocent and were simply trying to help children and that they had the paperwork Haiti officials told them to have. Thompson and the others have been released and are back in the United States, with the exception of Silsby. "She is a sister in the Lord, ready to return home to her family, yet satisfied to minister to the people God has placed her with. I invite you to live Hebrews 13:3 with me and 'Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them,'" Thompson, pastor of Eastside Church in Twin Falls, Idaho, told Baptist Press. Silsby is a member of Central Valley Church in Meridian, Idaho. To read the entire Thompson statement visit <http://bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?id=32657>.



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## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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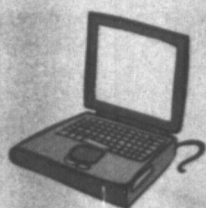
Simply share the following prayer  
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.





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# A target on their backs

The time has long passed when a person could intelligently argue that alcohol advertising and marketing in the U.S. are not really aimed at young people. With the exception of well-paid toadies beholden to the alcohol industry, virtually no one would today try to explain away television commercials featuring flatulent horses, cute dogs, and beach volleyball games played by nubile youngsters as anything but a naked attempt to draw the underage populace to their product.

With the 2010 prom season in full swing around the country and many high-schoolers scheming to acquire alcohol, it would behoove us to take a look again at a study in the the American Journal of Preventative Medicine by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health's College Alcohol.

The study slams the door on the facile argument that alcohol conglomerates don't aim their advertising at young people.

"Alcohol specials, promotions, and advertisements were prevalent in the alcohol outlets around college campuses. Almost three-quarters of on-

premise establishments offered specials on weekends, and almost one-half of the on-premise establishments and more than 60% of off-premise establishments provided at least one type of beer promotion. The availability of large volumes of alcohol... low sale prices, and frequent promotions and advertisements at both on- and off-premises establishments were associated with higher binge drinking rates on the college campuses," said the authors of the study.

Strange. Except for 21-year-old seniors, virtually every other college student on any campus is underage as the law applies to alcohol use. Could it be that the purveyors of alcohol are attempting to reach only the relatively small number of 21-year-olds on any given campus? Not likely. Their goal is to introduce alcohol to young people at as early an age as possible — the better to normalize alcohol use and establish lifetime drinking habits.

There simply isn't a better time to introduce kids to alcohol than in the early years of their college experience, when so many of them are still so immature and almost all of them are far away from parental and church influences for the first time in their lives.

What happens when young college students take advantage of the alcohol specials? Approximately 20% become binge drinkers who quickly consume at least 4-5 drinks at a time, according to the study. Most of them probably consume much more than the 4-5 drink standard for the study, however.

What happens to these young binge drinkers? "Binge drinking has been associated with problems such as property damage, physical injuries, unwanted sexual advances, and encounters with police. In addition, binge drinking is associated with secondhand effects such as interruption of study or sleep, having to babysit a drunken student, or being the victims of physical and sexual assault.

"With regard to any type of alcohol consumption, it is estimated that 1,400 college students die each year from alcohol-related injuries," the study reports.



Here's the reality: In order to hook as many kids as possible as early as possible, the alcohol industry is willing to sacrifice 1,400 young people each year — and that's not counting the students who receive non-fatal but life-changing injuries, or who contract incurable diseases, or who ultimately throw away their college education.

Young people have a target on their backs, placed there by the manufacturers of alcohol and the business people and politicians who defend and support the industry. Sadly, some of those defenders and supporters in Mississippi are Baptist — at least in name.

It's just the price of doing business, all in a day's work for the alcohol pushers — and to them worth every drop of blood and every mother's tear that are shed.

As the bodies of our young people pile up, we continue to tolerate alcohol in our midst and hope for a different result.

Indeed, we are an insane people.

## GUEST OPINION:



### Bystanders, or participants?

By Chris Clark  
San Diego, Ca.

Southern Baptists are quick to speak up on a number of issues. Pastors nationwide do not hesitate for one second to decry abortion. They are quick to exhort the people in the pews to embrace family values. Proclaiming the sanctity of marriage is commonly heard from Southern Baptist pulpits from sea to shining sea.

These values are proclaimed vociferously because, as we so accurately point out, Scripture clearly speaks to these issues, and of course we Southern Baptists are "people of the Book."

Yet I fear that far too often, we Southern Baptists are more bark than bite, more bluster than action, when it comes down actually to doing what it takes to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. When it comes to doing the heavy lifting necessary to live out our biblical values, too often we are content to sit on the sideline to watch and cheer.

For a body of believers that could profoundly impact the moral fiber of the nation, we are, too often, absent. In California where I pastor, there are 1,800 Southern Baptist churches. In 2008, when the reality of legalized "gay marriage" threatened to rip out the core of our nation's moral fiber, less than 10% of those churches were willing to rise up and

actively do what was necessary to restore and preserve the biblical definition of marriage in the state.

While grateful beyond words for those Southern Baptist pastors who did stand, I cannot help but wonder what the impact would be today if just half of the pastors of those 1,800 Southern Baptist churches would have risen up and joined in the movement.

The momentum from the effort in California reverberated throughout the nation in 2009. That momentum was instrumental in the November effort by the people of Maine to veto the attempt by its state legislature to legalize "same-sex marriage" by a wider margin than what passed Proposition 8.

Churches of all denominations there were witnessing a remarkable truth: that when

pastors would stand up and lead the people to fulfill their role as society's moral voice, the Lord provides the results.

Yet despite the evidence borne out in California and in Maine, the city of Houston, Texas, became the largest American city to elect an openly homosexual mayor, thanks in large part to a dismally low voter turnout in December. With an opportunity to be the moral voice of Houston's society, the church stayed home.

This, in the so-called buckle of the so-called Bible Belt, is what causes me to wonder aloud: Where were Houston's pastors, especially its Southern Baptist ones? If only half of the SBC pastors would have become visceral enough to urge their people to just go and vote their biblical values, would not the outcome have been significantly different?

The point is this: Southern Baptists can make a difference in our nation's moral climate, but will Southern Baptists make that difference? It will depend on Southern Baptist pastors seeing the need for the pulpits of America to once again thunder with truth.

While a watchful eye needs to remain in Washington today, affecting Washington tomorrow will require a new strategy that targets the local level elections. The school board member today who might become the city council rep tomorrow, who might become mayor, who might become state senator, who might become governor, or congressman, or senator, or even president.

That is where the focus must begin.

Jackson Senyonga of Uganda Revival said, "The condition of society is the report card of the church." We can no longer afford to ignore these conditions and our role in affecting change. We can make a difference. We must start where we have been planted.

The next generation is looking to us. Let us together have a mind to this good work.

Clark is pastor of East Clairemont Southern Baptist Church in San Diego. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for length.





# Practical Principles for Christian Living



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION • VOLUME 12 • ISSUE 3

## The Maelstroms of Mississippi

By Jimmy Porter

Miss. Baptist Christian Action Commission

A function of the Christian Action Commission is to monitor, critique and report events that affect the lives of our families and friends. This is not an easy assignment. Common knowledge tells us that two people can see the same event and interpret it differently. But most who follow the state and federal political process agree that violent, turbulent and troublesome winds are blowing all about us. The current situation can accurately be described as a *maelstrom*.

Our state senators and representatives have gone home for a few weeks while committees still hammer out a budget for next year. Newspapers across our state have been diligent in telling the truth—needs far exceed revenue. Frugality is not an attribute of most politicians. Our greatest need right now is fiscal common sense among all our legislators. It is ludicrous to believe Mississippi can continue to provide all the amenities that have become standard fare for so many.

Here are a few of the serious issues on our radars. Sid Salter, in a recent article, informed his readers that six months ago the Social Security Administration stated that by 2016 ben-



Porter

health care passes, one must surmise.

Health care reform will affect every person in America. The question is how and when? The first time I filed a federal tax form I asked my dad how much I should anticipate getting back in a refund. He asked me, "Son, how much did you pay in?" I responded, "Nothing." He smiled and said, "If I were you I wouldn't spend a lot of time looking for a check." "Son, nothing is free and you cannot expect something for nothing." Unfunded federal mandates to states will cost you and me via federal taxes or state taxes. It cannot be avoided. I suggest you go to [www.cahc.net](http://www.cahc.net) and study the Health Reform timeline implementation.

Cap and Trade, Immigration reform and high unemployment rates are on the

efits paid out would exceed payroll deductions. Three days after Congress approved public health care the SSA stated that this year they would begin paying out more in benefits than taken in from payroll taxes. Convenient misinformation until

White Houses agenda, which may or may not bode well for the USA. Recess appointments by the President, alienation of our Middle East ally, and questionable decisions on foreign policy and nuclear weaponry are troublesome at best.

Closer to home, I am a bit discouraged because the 2010 Mississippi Legislative Session was disappointing in several ways. Disappointing not because of what was done but because of what was not done. A bill dubbed "Nathan's Law" died in Rep. Ed Blackmon's Judiciary A committee. This bill was named for Nathan Key who was killed exiting a school bus when hit by a car that failed to stop. The bill would have strengthened the current law that requires vehicles to stop when school buses are loading or unloading students. Rep. Blackmon's mishandling this bill was inexcusable.

Another bill, The Child Protection Act, was never brought out of Mr. Blackmon's committee for discussion or a vote by the full house. Go sit in the House Chamber and you will hear lots of rhetoric directed to protecting our teens and lowering teen pregnancy, but we cannot get this bill out of committee. This bill would assist in prosecuting adult males guilty of statutory rape for impregnating children and young teens. There is absolutely no sane

reason why Rep. Blackmon killed this bill.

Education was another inflammatory issue. It must be a priority but not just in funding. The whole system from top to bottom needs to be evaluated and excellence demanded. We have excellent community colleges and universities, but we have too many of them. Every year higher education budgets are cut, and all we are doing is weakening the many for the sake of a few. Bring up this subject at the Capitol and immediately some make it a race issue. The weaker ones die a natural death because funds will not be available to keep them on life support forever.

What can we do to help the situation? As Christians we must interact with our world. We must fight for what is right and just. We must pray and seek God's will in all matters and trust that God will see us through regardless of our political circumstances. The Christian Action Commissions remains committed to assisting you and your families in creating a Christian environment in which to live.

The author can be contacted at [jporter@ChristianAction.com](mailto:jporter@ChristianAction.com).

## Garaywa planning full season of camping, missions events

By Erica Hagar  
Correspondent

The excitement in the air is already contagious as school children anticipate summer's arrival. In just a few weeks, girls from all across Mississippi will scurry here and there excitedly greeting old friends and already making new ones as they enter the gates of Garaywa Camp and Conference Center. Weighed down with pillows, sleeping bags, and suitcases, they will be in for a treat as they settle in for a week of summer camp.

Garaywa, located within the Clinton city limits, has been hosting Mississippi Baptist Girls in Action (GA) and Acteens camps since 1947. Funding by the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering, the Mississippi Cooperative Program, the Edwina Robinson Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Special Day offering, and a nominal camper fee allowed nearly 1,600 girls to attend camp last summer.

Every morning, campers rotate between several missions-oriented activities, including a share time with the missionary serving at camp that week. After lunch, camp comes alive with splashes from the pool, laughter from the

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ropes course, and squeals from the zipline in the woods. The evenings conclude with a special event and time of worship.

"I know what a difference camp can make in the lives of students because I know what it did for me," said assistant director Jessica Morrison of Jackson, Tenn.

Like Morrison, both campers and staff alike have encountered the Lord inside the Garaywa gates.

"Last summer was more than I could have ever asked for. Working on staff at Garaywa made me unhappy with complacency. For the first time in my life, I am open to foreign missions. I saw God move and work in ways I never could have imagined," said Cassie Jeffcoat, a freshman at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton.

Jeffcoat, as well as 40 other college students, will make Garaywa their home this summer as they invest in the lives of fourteen campers in their cabin each week.

"We expect God to move and work among our campers,

but it's so exciting when He begins to work among our staff," Morrison said.

This year's theme, highlighted with Matthew 9:36, is Heart For This City. The goal each summer is for campers to not only have an enjoyable camping experience, but to come to know the Lord in a personal way, to understand that they are valuable to God, and to catch a vision of what they can do in missions.

As a result, nearly 70 professions of faith were made and among campers last summer.

The 2010 summer camp dates are June 7-11, June 14-18, June 21-25, June 28-July 2, July 5-9, July 12-16, July 19-23, and July 26-30 for girls who have completed grades three through six.

Garaywa is also hosting two youth weeks for girls who have completed grades seven through 12 on June 28-July 2 and July 5-9. The cost is \$155 per person and campers do not have to be part of a GA or Acteens group to attend.

This summer, campers will be learning about the work of Kay Bennett at the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans and raise a mission offering for that ministry. They will also experience Bible Study, worship, mission projects, singing, swimming,



IN THE TREETOPS — Cassie Jeffcoat carefully steps across a log suspended high above Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton, as part of the special activities available to summer campers at the Mississippi Baptist facility. For more information, visit [www.garaywa.com](http://www.garaywa.com). (Photo by Erica Hagar)

zipline, ropes course, crafts, drama, recreation, and other exciting activities.

For more information or to register for summer camp, go to [www.garaywa.org](http://www.garaywa.org) or call

Garaywa at (601) 924-7034

Hagar is missions impact correspondent for the Mission Strategy Division of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.



For those of you who live here in Mississippi, I do not have to explain at all what I mean by the green haze. It is a period in the middle of spring, somewhere usually around Easter, when the world around us turns to green. The road has a green tint. Cars whether black, white, or whatever color you choose, turn lime green. A friend who had come to central Mississippi during that period of time woke up one morning and went out to his car. He was shocked that all the cars looked alike and his had turned green overnight.

Being from Texas, he had never seen anything like that and, of course, he inquired as to what it was. Did an earthquake or volcanic explosion send sulfuric green gas into the sky, or did vandals come during the night and spray paint all of the cars? When he received the explanation that he was in the midst of a world that was being showered with pine tree pollen, he could hardly believe it. I, like many of you who have experienced it many, many times, can hardly believe it either.

Now some of you may wonder why I'm writing about this annual event here in Mississippi. It's to make a point and discuss with you an issue that sometimes we overlook. Especially for those of us who generally see the world in terms of black and white, occasionally we need to see the world in lime green. Here is why.

More often than not, when this event occurs I hear people moaning, groaning, and



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

complaining about all of this pollen that covers their cars, blows in their windows, and clogs their airways. Sometimes the folks I am hearing are mostly me. There are certainly a lot of downsides when the pollen begins to blow. People with breathing problems certainly will be affected. For people with allergies, it is not fun. For folks who like to keep a clean, shiny car it's not going to happen for several days or weeks. However, like many things in life, the green haze is both good and bad.

I can just hear some folks saying, "Well I don't see anything good about it." Well, I need to tell you it is a wonderful, miraculous, and glorious event in nature. If trees, shrubs, and flowering plants did not pollinate they would go out of business in short order, so all of the good things that you see happening around you in spring with God's nature providing its panoramic field of color whether it is green, yellow, purple, or white, all happen because of the things that we complain about.

Beyond that, there are some really good things that people rejoice about when this event takes place. I am sure there are some doctors, especially allergy specialists, who think this is a good time

of the year. Folks who operate carwashes think that Christmas has returned in April. The environmentalists who want to see the whole world go green get their way at least for several days.

To channel these thoughts into just a couple of ideas, think about this green haze and realize that some of the things that we think are bad in our lives are actually good. Realize also that some of the things that we grumble and grouch about in our lives, we desperately need and ought to give thanks for them. Please do not consider me overly critical of you or pretending to be so spiritual that I am able to comprehend God at work in this green fog. To be honest with you, I am sitting here writing this article choking on the pollen and praying for rain to wash it away. Sadly, I must confess that when the

rain arrives I will probably mumble and grumble about it.

Such is the nature of life wherever you look. With the joy of the arrival of a child is the accompanying pain of the birth. With the euphoria that is felt in graduation, there is the hard work of study leading to the achievement. With the celebration of the glorious resurrection of our Lord there is, of course, the preceding crucifixion and death.

As you proceed through today's activities and see those things that you may not particularly enjoy, try to view them through the green haze. It may be that it will change your view, if only briefly.

The author can be contacted at  
jfutral@mbcb.org.

## BIBLIOCIPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
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MPATEO, YAP OLIX  
NTFP, XLBYA YAP ETWO  
RTO, YALY B HBEE XPSO  
L QLFBSB BS YAP ELBO,  
STY L QLFBSB TQ  
MWPLO, STW L YABWXY  
QTW HLYPW, MZY TQ  
APLWBSR YAP HTWOX  
TQ YAP ETWO.

LFTX PBRAY: PEPGPS

Clue: O = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Sixteen: Two

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

- Ebenezer Church, Liberty:** Revival, May 2 - 5, 7 p.m.; Gerald Wicker, Nathan Luce, Jeremy Cornette, and Joe Jackson, speakers; Noel David Wroten, music.
- Good Hope Church, Batesville:** Revival, Apr. 16 - 18; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Nathan Brown, speaker; Audrie Cirlot, music; Todd Plunkett, pastor.
- Liberty Church, Carroll County, Jefferson Community:** Revival, Apr. 18 - 21; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Stone, speaker; Eddie Taylor & Wendy Brown, music; Gary Tanner, pastor.
- Airport Church, Grenada:** Homecoming, May 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Lowell Ingram, speaker; Donnie Bain, pastor.
- Mt. Olive Church, Okolona:** Revival, Apr. 16 - 18; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; services led by college students, with Jared Wilson, Blue Mountain College, speaker; music led by other students; Marion M. Tumberlinson, pastor.
- Ramah Church, McCall Creek:** Homecoming, Apr. 18; services, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; Gordon Coker, speaker.
- Goss Church, Columbia:** Revival, Apr. 18 - 21; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Wade and Jennifer Burleigh, First Century Ministries, leaders; live demonstrations, drama, wood sculpting, blacksmithing, pottery; Mark McArthur, pastor.
- Society Hill Church, Oakville:** Apr. 18 - 21; Sun., Apr. 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Miller, speaker; Eddy Myers, pastor.

## MS POSITIONS

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**NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH IN** Lincoln County is seeking a P/T Youth Minister. Send resumes to: New Sight Baptist Church, 629 Forest Trail, Brookhaven, Ms., 39601 or email newsightbc@cableone.net

**FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH IS** seeking a P/T Minister of Music. Send resumes to Minister of Music Search Committee, 1491 Frye Rd., Starkville, MS 39759 or e-mail to fellowshipbb@bellsouth.net

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**FBC FULTON, MS IS SEEKING A F/T** Youth Minister. Please send resumes to P.O. Box 400, Fulton, Ms. 38843, or fax to 662-862-5793, or E-mail to avaguhn74@yahoo.com.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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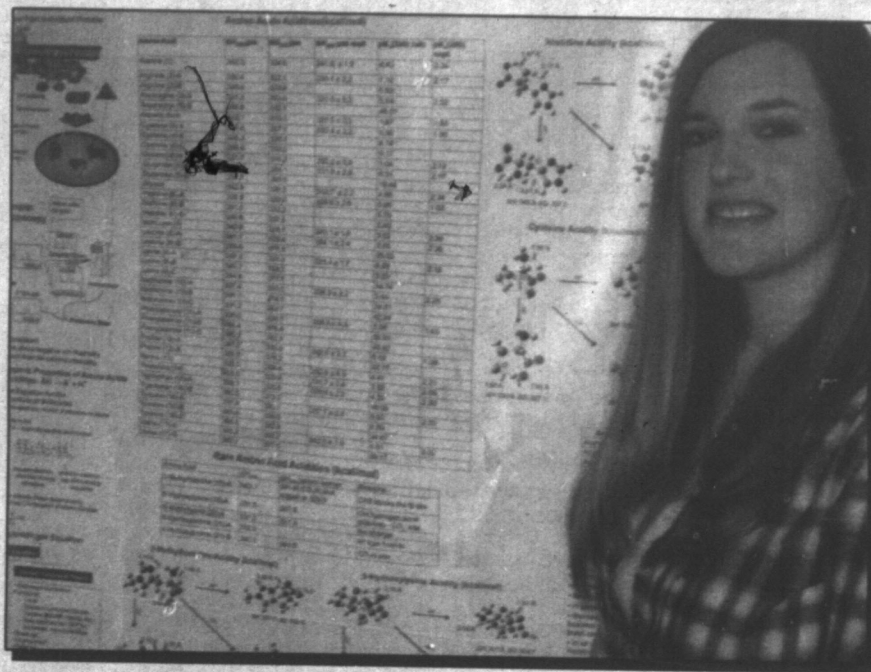
**Mississippi College** is hosting the state's first International Economic Summit that will attract high school students to engage in simulated world trading competition. The April 16 summit will attract 70 students from Clinton High, Madison Central High, Centerville Academy, St. Andrews Episcopal School in Ridgeland, and Neshoba High in Philadelphia. The academic event runs from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. that Friday at Anderson Hall.

**William Carey University** will present the art exhibit *Miracles of Restoration* now through June 15 in the Sarah E. Gillespie Museum of Art (SEGMA) on the Hattiesburg campus. Art conservator Richard White will speak during the opening exhibit at 6 p.m. A reception will follow the lecture and the public is invited to both admission free. The museum is open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. except on university holidays and by appointment by calling (601) 318-6148. A reception for the WCU Student Art Show will precede the art conservation lecture. The reception is at 5 p.m. in the Lucile Parker Art Gallery across the street from the SEG Museum of Art and will feature various mediums of art by Traditon and

Hattiesburg campus art students. This reception opens the student show which will run until April 30. The public is invited to the student art show and reception.

**3. The Bobby Halford Summer Baseball Camps** will be held on the William Carey University campus in Hattiesburg. Youngsters ages 7-12 may choose to attend a camp June 7-11 or June 21-25. Times are 9:00-3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9:00-12 noon on Friday. The fee of \$135 includes instruction, camp T-shirt and four noon meals. The sessions will concentrate on pitching, catching and hitting, with emphasis on fundamentals and individualized instruction. Drills and team play are utilized to fit every skill level. Participants will be grouped according to their ages and abilities. Coach Bobby Halford and his coaching staff are the principal instructors. Applications may be obtained by calling the baseball office at (601) 318-6110 or the external relations office at (601) 318-6192, or by email bhalford@wmcarey.edu.

**4. William Carey University** chemistry major Michelle Leigh Stover of Moselle designed a scientific poster that will hang in Green Science on the Hattiesburg campus. She recently presented her research in this poster format at



4. Stover

the Mississippi Academy of Science and the National American Chemical Society conference in San Francisco. While at the National American Chemical Society conference, professors and students roamed around looking at the participant's research and several

stopped by Stover's poster. "They would talk to me about my research, and then ask where I went to school," said Stover. "This gave me an opportunity to spread the word about WCU to different university students who had never heard of it before."

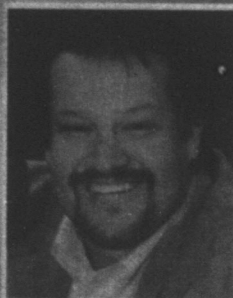
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\*\*4 per room rate with the Early Bird Discount applied. Standard lodging for one night.





## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS



5. New Choctaw Association



6. Fellowship Church, Bellefontaine



7. Holly Church



8. First Church, Pascagoula

1. Mt. Olivet Church, Forest, is hosting Mark Shultz and Point of Grace in concert May 1, 7 p.m., in the Temple Theater, Hattiesburg. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.itickets.com](http://www.itickets.com) or by calling (601) 479-0069. Tickets are \$25 for artist circle which includes a meet and greet, \$20 for lower mezzanine and \$15 general admission top balcony.

2. First Church, Collinsville, is hosting No Other Name in concert Apr. 18, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received.

3. The 29 churches of Clarke County Association, along with \$1,112.09 from an associational project, gave a total of \$75,958.97 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the most given in one year. In 2008 the association gave \$62,971.31. Grady Crowell, AMD.

4. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is having a dinner and concert Apr. 17, with dinner at 5 p.m. and concert with The Geeslin Brothers at 6. For more information, call (662) 895-2661.

5. The messengers to New Choctaw Association from Bogue Chitto, Calvary, Corinth, Canaan, Hope, Hopewell, Macedonia, Mt. Zion, Pine Bluff, and Pearl River Churches gather four Saturdays each year for the Executive Committee board meeting. Shown are messengers attending Jan. 2, with leaders Charles "Doby" Henry, AMD; Robert Patrick, moderator; and Kirby Willis, clerk.

6. The Mission Friends of Fellowship Church, Bellefontaine, participated in an Easter egg hunt Mar. 31. Shown are Hanna Latham, Aubree Mason, Addison Mason, Joseph Stauffer, Drew Tabb, and Wyatt Latham.

7. Holly Church, Alcorn, had its 2nd annual mission trip to Helena, Montana, during spring break in March. Eleven participants served with NAMB missionary Parish Hartley. They served food and ministered at a shelter, and invited the skiing community to the Sunday morning worship services held on the

mountain each week. John Bolter, pastor. Shown are the participants.

8. The Women on Mission and friends of First Church, Pascagoula, began sewing for the mission, "Children Hemmed in Prayer" in January. On Mar. 31, they shipped 1,279 garments to Phoenix City, Ala., where they would be sent to orphanages and refugee camps where missionaries would distribute them. Jay Cook, pastor. Shown are the participants.



9. Calvary Church, Belmont

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# Census plans to count same-sex couples as 'married'

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Census Bureau is actively encouraging homosexual couples to declare themselves as "married" on census forms, even if they do not have a marriage license. Critics say the move not only violates federal law but also encourages lying and will result in an inflated number.

It has been known for months that the Census Bureau was, for the first time, going to count same-sex couples in the 2010 Census, but only in recent days has the Census Bureau begun encouraging such participation through TV commercials airing on the homosexual-themed Logo channel, as well as through social media videos.

Only five states and the District of Columbia recognize same-sex marriage. Yet homosexual couples in the other 45 states — even those states that have passed constitutional amendments explicitly defining marriage in the traditional sense — are encouraged by the Census Bureau to identify as being married on the census if that's how they view their relationship.

The Census Bureau has posted an eight-page fact sheet on its website answering common questions from the homosexual community. "Census data are based on how individuals self-identify and how couples think of themselves," the document says. "Same-sex couples who are married, or consider themselves to be spouses, can identify one other adult as a 'husband or wife.'"

It is a first for the census. Under the Bush administration, same-sex couples who indicated on the 2000 Census they were married were re-categorized by the bureau as "unmarried partners." Attorneys for the Bush administration believed releasing data on married same-sex couples would have violated the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, a law which says "in determining the meaning" of "any ruling, regulation, or interpretation" of a federal bureau, marriage means only the legal union of a man and woman.

The Obama administration reversed the Bush policy last year.

The Census Bureau has released multiple YouTube videos targeting the homosexual community featuring male couples and female couples. Most of them have a similar message: If you consider yourself married, then indicate as such on the census form.

"What kind of government actively lobbies citizens to lie on their forms?" asked Family Research Council President Tony Perkins in a press release, arguing the Census Bureau was violating the 1996 law. "...Homosexuals should fill out the census form and be counted, the same as any other Americans. But only Congress — not homosexual activists, not the Census Bureau, and not President Obama and his appointees acting unilaterally — can change federal law."

Mathew Staver, chairman of the legal organization Liberty Counsel, said the Census is violating both the spirit and letter of the law.

"The federal law says no government agency can recognize marriage other than the definition of one man and one woman," Staver told Baptist Press. "So, if for federal purposes marriage is only a man and a woman, you can't count anything other than that, because it doesn't exist under federal law."

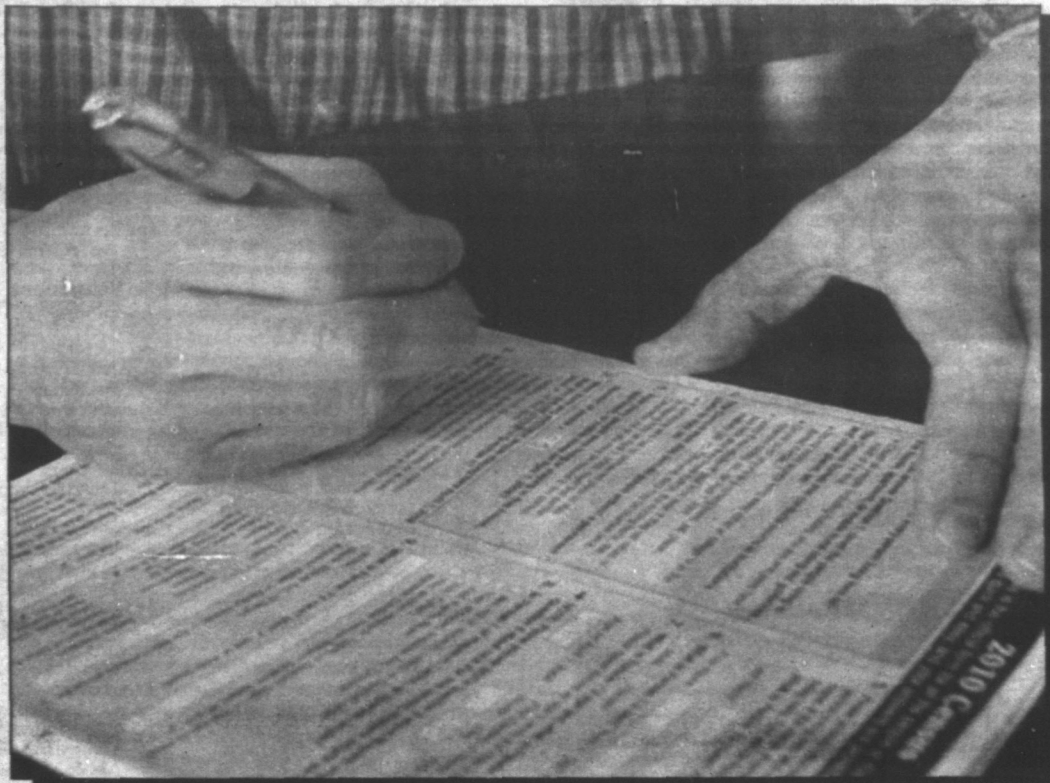
"Irrespective of what states are doing, there's a federal law that says marriage is between one man and one woman, and every federal agency must follow that definition."

The Census Bureau fact sheet even addresses transgender individuals, saying "transgender respondents should select the sex with which they identify."

The Census Bureau has defended its approach to same-sex couples, saying it does not ask heterosexual couples to show their marriage licenses, either. Conservatives say the issue of same-sex marriage is far different because it is illegal in the overwhelming majority of states.

The Census' YouTube videos feature various homosexual leaders, including Harry Knox of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest homosexual organization. Knox urges homosexuals to participate in the census.

"Same-sex partners, and for the first time same-sex married couples, will be counted," Knox said. "This includes couples



**POLICY REVERSAL** — The U.S. Census Bureau has announced that same-sex couples should mark their census forms as "married," in a reversal of former census policy that counted homosexuals and lesbians but did not recognize them as married. Opponents of the move say the new policy violates federal and state laws. (BP photo)

who may live where their relationship is not recognized. Transgender respondents are counted in the gender with which they identify."

One of the videos features a lesbian couple, Lorie and Jane Birch, who are volunteers with the Human Rights Campaign. One of them calls the census "the greatest way to really find out... who is in the community and [to] be counted so that we can have more political power."

Jaime Grant, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute, told the Associated Press the significance of the Census to count same-sex couples is "humongous."

"Our opponents are rightfully concerned, because it does lend an air of legitimacy to our marriages," Grant said. "It's

another way of weaving us into the fabric instead of continuing to see us as outsiders."

Staver, though, said the data will simply "cloud the issue" because many, if not most, of the couples won't be legally married. There will be no way to fact-check the data.

"They are self-identified married couples," Staver said.

"...It will inflate the numbers, and that's exactly what the homosexual agenda advocates will want to do to try and make their population look bigger than it is."

*Editor's note: The Census Bureau fact sheet can be viewed at [http://2010.census.gov/partners/pdf/factSheet\\_General\\_LGBT.pdf](http://2010.census.gov/partners/pdf/factSheet_General_LGBT.pdf).*

## STAFF CHANGES

1. **38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg**, has called Kevin Shearer as pastor. He served with the International Mission Board in Lima, Peru, for the past 22 years. He and his wife, Pam, have three daughters — Michelle, Kim, and Melissa.
2. **New Choctaw Association** has selected Charles "Doby" Henry as AMD. He and his wife, Hattie, live in the Bogue Chitto community where they have served Bogue Chitto Church for 12 years.

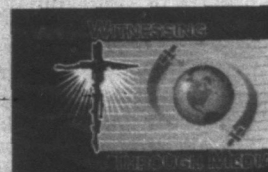


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2. Henry

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- Fundamentals of Camera Operation
- How Did They Do That?
- Getting Started on the Web
- Web Site Design Advanced
- Projection Systems Forum
- Creative Production Techniques
- Sound Advice Basic
- Sound Advice Advanced
- Lighting for Worship Basic
- Lighting for Worship Advanced



# Katrina couldn't stop Pascagoula seamen's ministries

By Erica Hagar  
Correspondent

The guestbook on the counter inside the Seamen's Center in Pascagoula is filled with signatures of people from Mexico, Russia, Ukraine, and the Philippines. It's just another typical day at the center, according to Adrian Turner, director of the center.

When seafarers see Turner, they shout "Father" or "Pastor," just a sign of how much they appreciate his presence at the port.

"The seamen's ministry is able to reach out beyond just one or two people. We reach countries we never go to," he said.

Adrian and his wife Frances operate two different seamen's centers, one on the east side of Pascagoula and another on the west side. Charles Corey directs the Gulfport center, which has relocated to the second floor of the U.S. Post Office downtown since the former center was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina.

In the last twelve months, 7,000 seafarers came into the two Pascagoula centers alone, representing 37 countries. "I learned early on that this ministry was about more than giving cookies and drinks to the seafarers. It's about taking the Gospel to countries all over the world," Adrian Turner said.

The center offers free Bibles to seafarers in their native languages as well as DVD's of the Jesus Film, a two hour presentation of the life of Jesus. "It's exciting to see a seaman who sees something in his heart language. He gets so excited that we're able to provide that for him," Frances Turner said. "Sometimes we're able to give them materials they can't even get in their own country."

In addition to providing spiritual resources, the center also offers a facility for the seamen to enjoy in the evenings. Open from 6-9 p.m., seafarers take advantage of the center's amenities, including a game room, kitchen, computer hookup, and phone room where they can purchase international calling cards.

Since the average term at sea is nine months, communication home is a special gift. "They go to sea not because they want to see the world, but to provide for their families. We'll ask them, 'What's the hardest part about your job?' and without exception, they all answer, 'Being away from our family,'" Adrian said.

"We meet their physical needs like taking them to Wal-Mart and helping them call home so they'll respond spiritually," Frances said.

For those on board that have not obtained an American visa, stepping off the boat is not an option. Instead, the Turners go to them.

"We take a cell phone on the ship for them to use. One time, a seafarer needed a pair of shoes, so we took a digital camera to the store and took pictures of several shoes, brought the camera on board, let him pick which pair he wanted, and then went back and bought them," Frances said.

The seafarers aren't the only ones receiving a blessing from the Turners. The center also ministers to the port authority and more than sixty security workers. "Port authority here is a huge blessing. They want us here. They're very supportive and allow us to have the facility on the port," Adrian said.

A facility is certainly something the Turners are thankful for. Hurricane Katrina destroyed the former facility and all its belongings when she made landfall in 2005. While the east site only had roof damage, nothing was salvageable at the west site.

"I remember saying, 'God, this was yours. If you want us here, you'll find a way for us to continue,'" Adrian said.

With the help of volunteer mission teams, a congregation from Kentucky that stopped their own building project to give money toward the center, and a generous gift from the Virginia Baptist Mission Board, the seamen's center was up and running mortgage-free six months after the storm.

According to Adrian, who has been the director of the center since 2004, their primary evangelism tool is a Jesus Video Party. The Turners go on board a

ship, show the Jesus Film, pass out commitment forms, and give gifts to each seafarer.

Last year, 73% of those who watched the video signed a commitment form to either give their life to Christ for the first time or rededicate their life to the Lord.

"We're trying to start Bible studies on board," Adrian said.

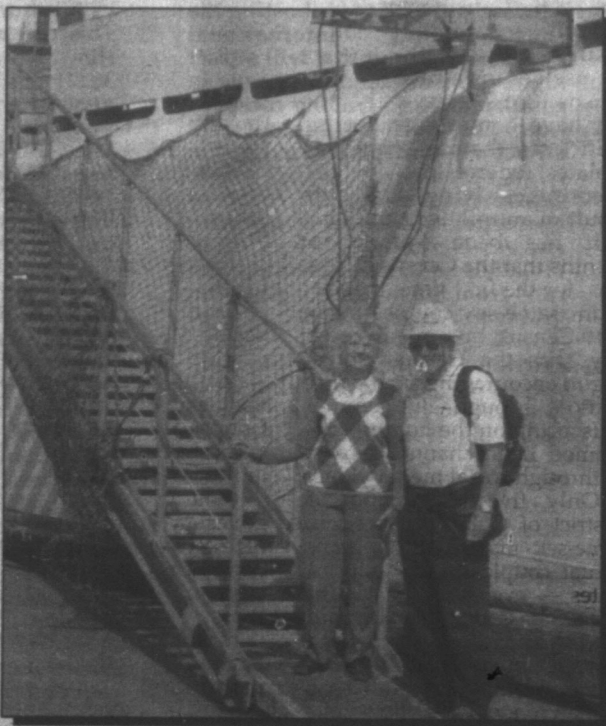
It's working. Andres, a chief cook on a tanker, told the Turners he was interested in witnessing to other men at sea. They provided him with the necessary resources and a Bible study got started. Three of the six men involved accepted the Lord during that study.

When Andres returns to his home country, the Philippines, he plans to host a crusade, the Turners said.

"We supported him. We got him 20,000 tracts. He trained a group of people to witness and pass out the tracts back home. When he sailed back here the next time, the first thing people on board asked him is if they could do a Bible study on board," Frances said.

While Jackson County Association provides Adrian's salary, gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering help to pay for the center's utilities and incidental costs. Additionally, it pays for gifts for the seamen and an appreciation dinner for the 24 volunteer teams that keep the center operating.

"I can't help but think of a seaman from Ukraine who came off his ship on a Monday night and said he wanted to be baptized 'like Jesus.' Three years before, he had gotten a Bible



**ANCHORS AWEIGH** — Frances and Adrian Turner prepare to board a ship docked in Pascagoula as part of their Seamen's Center ministry in the Jackson County area. Although Hurricane Katrina devastated the ministry's two centers, the facilities were up and running again within six months. (Photo by Erica Hagar)

from the Mobile Seamen's Center in Alabama and had been studying it.

"That's what it's all about," Adrian said. For more information on port ministry in Mississippi, contact the Men's Ministry Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3339 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 339. E-mail: dgann@mbcb.org.

Hagar is missions impact correspondent for the Mission Strategy Division of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

## Pelahatchie couple leaves Miss. for Montana missions calling

By Grace Thornton  
Correspondent

In March, Gerald Johnston could be found working on tractors in Pelahatchie, and his wife Alice was helping children there find library books. In April, the scenery is different for the couple.

At the beginning of the month, the Johnstons left the tractors and the kids' books and drove their camper from Mississippi to the Bitter Root Valley on the far western side of Montana.

It's a couple of hours from Canada's Glacier National Park and a couple of hours from Yellowstone National Park, but the most important landmark to the Johnstons is Sleeping Child Road in Hamilton, Mont., the place where their camper is parked on the property of New Hope Church.

"We think that road — Sleeping Child Road — is a great picture of the work we feel like God is calling us to there. We want to wake the sleeping child of Montana," Alice Johnston said.

The Johnstons, whose home church is Eastside in Pelahatchie, are now serving with New Hope Church as Mission Service Corps volunteers with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention, which is headquartered in Alpharetta, Ga.

In their new role they are supporting the pastor, helping with work such as surveying the community's needs, and organizing teams that come to conduct Vacation Bible Schools in the area.

"It's not a glamorous job, but it's exciting to us," Alice said.

The two began wrestling with the idea of leaving

Mississippi to serve elsewhere, during the annual meeting last fall of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in Jackson. They were already serving as Missions Service Corps coordinators for eight counties in Mississippi, but they started feeling the tug to go themselves.

"Prayer was the main thing that made us realize we were supposed to go, and we prayed about it for a good while. We knew this was what God wanted us to do," Gerald Johnston said.

At first, the couple looked into international missions, but God soon began to work on them about Montana — Alice first, and then Gerald. "I knew when we saw that little church (in Montana) online and that need, that that's where we would go," Alice said.

They kept coming back to the little church in the big

state where less than one percent of the people are churched. It's a big job and Gerald said he's nervous, but that doesn't hold a candle to his excitement.

"I'm really looking forward to the work," he said. "I'm quitting my job, but we're stepping out on faith. I know God's faithful — He sure is."

Ken Rhodes, director of missions mobilization for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, said he knows the Johnstons will contribute greatly to the work in Montana.

"Alice and Gerald have been really active in missions within Mississippi, and they have been very instrumental in enlisting Missions Service Corps volunteers," he said. "Gerald is a person of many

skills, and Alice is one of these people who just finds a way to do it. They are hard workers."

Rhodes said while he's sad to lose them in Mississippi, he's excited to see them follow God's leading to Montana.

Because the Johnstons are serving on a purely volunteer basis, they are raising support and also plan to get secondary jobs in the Hamilton area. "We'll find a job if I have to work at McDonald's," Alice said with a laugh.

The couple is excited about the chance to share the Gospel at their non-church work, too. "I can't wait to see what God's going to do in our personal relationships," she said. "It's going to be neat."

Thornton, a Mississippi College graduate, is a staffer at The Alabama Baptist newspaper in Birmingham.



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### The Right Motivation

2 Corinthians 5:9-21 (NIV)

By Marion D. Duncan

"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18)

Paul is anticipating the day when his human body—a mere tent, a temporary dwelling—will be exchanged for his new body, a spiritual body in the likeness of Christ. In this heavenly body, he will be in the presence of God, still serving and adoring Him. Kipling wrote a poem expressing the great things man would be able to do in the life to come. Here is one stanza:

*"When earth's last picture is  
painted,  
And the tubes are twisted and  
dried,  
When the oldest colours have  
faded,*

*And the youngest critic  
has died,  
We shall rest, and faith we  
shall need it,  
Lie down for an aeon or  
two,  
Till the Master of all good work-  
men  
Shall set us to work anew."*

Paul longed for the life to come, but he did not despise his present life on earth. We are citizens of two worlds—our bodies are here on earth, but our hearts are in heaven. As Christians, we have a foretaste of heaven here through the Holy Spirit in us, the first installment of the life that is to come. While here, it is our privilege and responsibility to actively engage in sharing the salvation story with everyone we know.

When thinking of the life to come, Paul was reminded that



Duncan

there would, also, be the judgment in which each person would answer to God about faithfulness to Him. He warned the Corinthians of the judgment and that they were not journeying through this earth only on the way to glory in the life to

come, but were commanded to be witnesses of Him to a world who knew Him not. "...in life we are making or marring a destiny, we are winning or losing a crown. Time has become the testing ground of eternity." (The Daily Study Bible: Letters to the Corinthians).

What is the ministry of a Christian? Paul said he ministered in the name of Jesus to please Him. We should desire to please Christ in everything we do. The ministry of a Christian is to "persuade sinners to be reconciled to God." (5:11, 20) Paul addressed having the right motive for ministry and gave three acceptable motives in verses 9-13: (1) To minister with the proper

motive, one must have the fear (awe, reverence) of the Lord. Having the proper attitude toward God and being obedient to "persuading sinners to be reconciled to Him" are basic in our relationship with God. We should examine our lives regularly to see if we are ready to stand before the judgment of God. (2) His great love for us is motive for ministering for Him. Christ died that we might live through Him and for Him and with Him. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship." (Romans 12:1-2) "I gave my life for thee, what hast thou given for Me?" (Philip P. Bliss) (3) Because God and man have been reconciled in the death and resurrection of Christ, Christians have motive to minister to those who have not found reconciliation with God personally through faith in Christ. The basic meaning of reconcile is "to change thoroughly." When Christ died, all our sins were imputed to Him—put on His

account. Therefore, Paul says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." (17b) Our sins are no longer counted against us when we become new creatures in Christ Jesus—our account has been covered by the blood of Christ; we have been reconciled to God.

"We are, therefore, Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." Webster describes an ambassador as "a diplomatic agent of the highest rank who is the resident representative of his or her own government or appointed for a special temporary assignment; an authorized representative or messenger." Accordingly, a Christian is an agent of the highest rank who is the resident representative of Christ through whom God makes His appeal for men to be reconciled to Him.

What a privilege it is to serve Him! "We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God!"

Duncan is a member of First Church, Macon.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### What Are Your Ground Rules?

Exodus 19:1-24 - 24:18

By Shelby Hazzard

#### Worship the Lord Only - Ex 20:1-6

At the Sinai Desert campsite God called Moses to remind Israel of His character and covenant. "He was the God who carried them on eagles wings" and if Israel "obeyed Him fully, they would be His treasured possession, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Israel agrees to keep God's covenant. On the third day, after Israel's preparation, God descended on Sinai surrounded by thunder, lightning, fire, smoke and trumpet blasts. Moses led the people to the base of the mountain and he and Aaron ascended to receive the Ten Commandments.

The first and second commands teach us to "have no other gods before us" and "not to make nor bow down to idols for

God is a jealous God punishing the sins of those who hate him to the third and fourth generation and blessing those that love him to a thousand." God will tolerate no competition. He is a jealous God, knowing we will desire to have a visible representation of Him, so he commands us not to make idols, as the polytheistic pagans do, for inevitably we will worship them, much like religious relics today and bronze serpent in the time of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:4).

God had delivered Israel. Now he would provide them His law to define His character and their responsibilities. God initiated His covenant to redeem His people, ultimately to be revealed in Christ, "but now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteous-



Hazzard

ness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe" (Rom 3:21-22).

We must worship only God through Christ and avoid all forms of idolatry!

#### Show Respect for the Lord - Ex 20:7-11

The third and fourth commands relate to God's Name and Day. "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name." What constitutes misuse of His name? Using His name in anyway that contradicts His character and nature. Paul said in Romans 2:24, "As it is written: 'God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,'" showing the affects of religious hypocrisy. Christ also said in Matthew 12:34, "For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." The way we think, live and speak regarding God will reveal our heart condition toward God.

Next, God builds upon the created order of the universe in Genesis with the fourth com-

mand, "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." The Sabbath was to be a day of rest, reflection and worship for God's people and was so important for our spiritual health; He placed it within the Ten Commandments.

God would later use the Prophets to condemn Israel for her lack of Sabbath observance, using it as evidence for their affliction and exile. Israel was to work for six days and then observe a day of rest and worship for all, including their animals and foreigners. This command carries on today as believers observe the Sabbath on Sunday, the day of Christ's resurrection!

#### Treat Others Right - Ex 20:12-17

The remaining commands deal with earthly relationships and begin with parents, "honor your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." The commands that follow are "you shall not...murder, commit adultery, steal, lie or covet."

The fifth command transitions from a heavenly to earthly perspective and contains a

conditional promise for multi-generational faithfulness. Our conformity to five through ten will directly correlate to our conformity to one through four! As Jesus answered when asked, "Which is the greatest commandment?" he summed up the entire law by saying, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind (1-4) and love your neighbor as yourself" (5-10).

As God's people we must treat each other as God has commanded!! We must honor our parents so our faith is passed on; we must not hate or intentionally harm one another physically or emotionally. We must not connive away each other's intimate relationships, property or reputation, nor secretly desire to have their life.

So when you examine your life in accordance to God's commands how does it measure up? Do you have a heart for Christ and His truth or is it all about you and your version of the truth?

Hazzard is minister of evangelism, First Church, Greenville.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

JANUARY 1 - 20, 2010

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JANUARY 21 - 31, 2010

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## Current Employment Opportunity

7 day-on/7 day-off Shift  
Open to Husband/Wife Team Only

The Baptist Children's Village has an opening for Christian, mission-minded, individuals without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of houseparent. Applicants must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff. Houseparents receive an excellent salary with benefits. A private bedroom and meals are included while on duty.

The primary job responsibility of a house parent is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and/or youth residents. The duties of a houseparent are many and are varied and somewhat dependent upon the specific program and cottage to which assigned. The following list of responsibilities is to provide an overview of the job and is not an exhaustive list.

### Job responsibilities:

- Provide immediate supervision of residents in the cottage and other settings.
- Participate fully in the implementation of each resident's Plan of Care
- Model Christian values and lifestyle for residents and their families
- Model a healthy physical, social and emotional lifestyle for residents
- Serve as the primary transportation resource for residents of assigned cottage

### Job requirements:

- 25-65 years of age
- Good physical, mental and emotional health
- Stable, even disposition
- Valid driver's license with a good driving record
- Educational background must be at a minimum a high school diploma or GED
- Experience in child rearing is preferred
- Must be flexible and able to work in a team environment
- Good organizational skills
- For more information or to apply for a position, please call Leah Adkison at 601-922-2242 or email [bcbv@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:bcbv@baptistchildrensvillage.com).

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# Study: Porn acceptable in modern American culture

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Long before the U.S. Surgeon General issued his 1964 report showing the devastating harm of smoking, much of the nation viewed cigarettes as fun and harmless, even cool.

A new report says much of America today has a similar naive attitude toward Internet pornography and that it needs to wake up before it's too late and see porn's destructive impact not only on individuals but also marriages, children and society in general.

The 53-page report, called simply, *The Social Costs of Pornography*, was released by The Witherspoon Institute in Princeton, N.J., and was signed by more than 50 scholars from a wide variety of backgrounds: conservatives and liberals, Democrats and Republicans, atheists and Christians.

Gone are the days when porn was the sole domain of shady nightclubs, dark alleys, and adult theaters, the report notes. Today, porn is easily accessible and affordable, and with most Americans having a computer, its users can remain largely anonymous.

"[A]lthough pornography has existed for millennia, never has it been as widely available or used as it has been in recent years," the report says. "...There is evidence that more people — children, adolescents, and adults — are consuming pornography — sporadically, inadvertently, or chronically — than ever before."

Internet porn, the scholars say, can be psychologically addictive and can even reach levels of what psychologists call a "compulsive" addiction, meaning that it continues "despite negative consequences" to a person.

Similar to what is required of cigarettes, the report says all porn, print and digital, "should carry a warning" about porn's addictive potential and possible psychological harm.

How wide is the problem? The report cites one 2008 study of undergraduate and graduate students ages 18-26 that showed 69% of the men and 10% of the women viewed pornography more than once a month.

It's not just adults. In 2009, the fourth-most searched word on the Internet for kids ages seven and under was "porn," according to data by OnlineFamily.Norton.com. For all kids, "sex" was the number four word and porn was number five.

Hollywood makes 400 films a year, to the porn industry's 11,000.

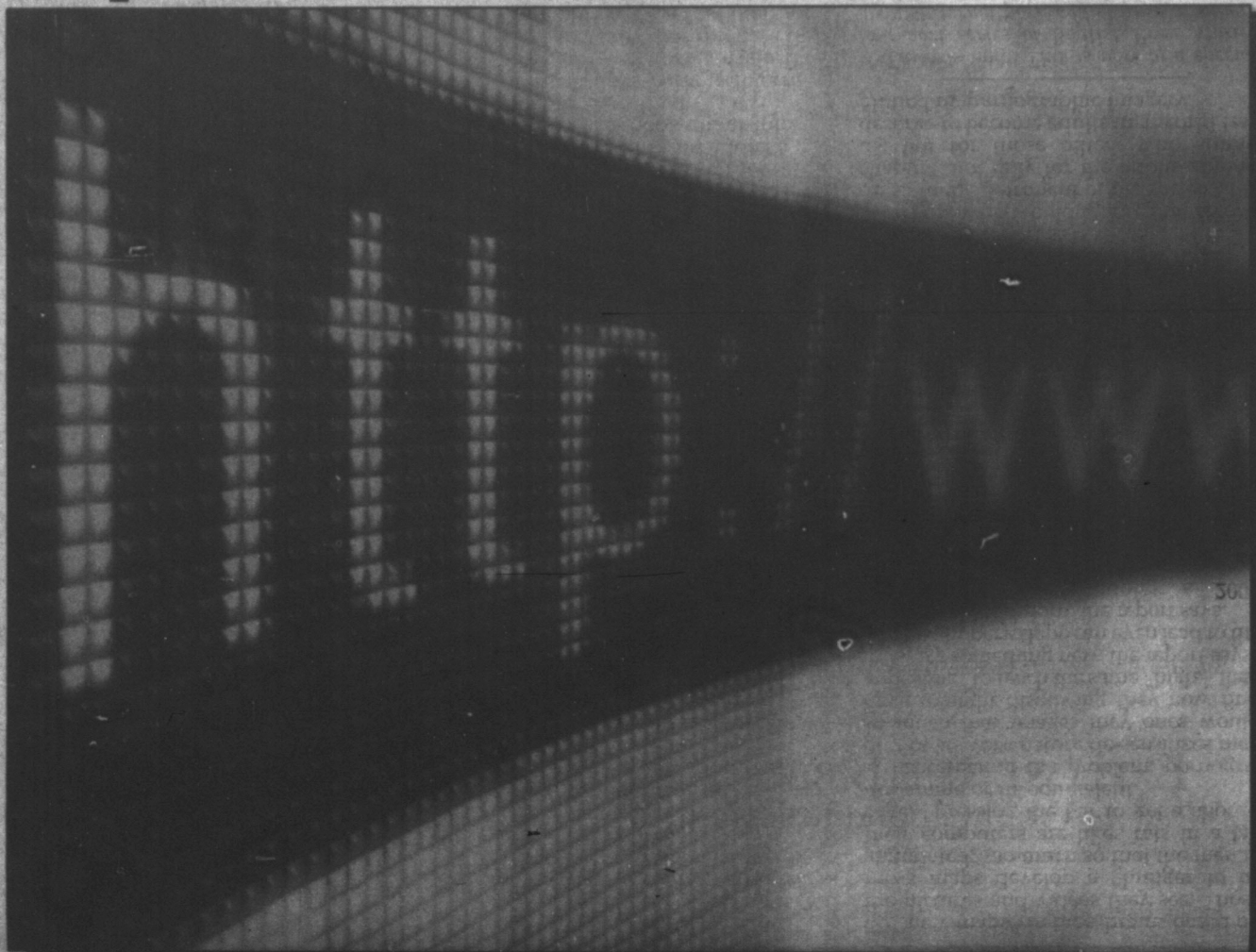
The report did not cite any data specifically about Christians' use of Internet porn — reputable data is largely non-existent — but Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, said the problem is very real among believers.

He called Internet porn "perhaps the greatest challenge Christians face today."

"I am convinced that millions of men and boys are being destroyed by pornography, and statistics show that women and girls are joining their numbers," Land said. "Their abilities to be godly marriage partners are being warped by it, and it is one of the major causes of divorce."

"Pornography is an evil that thrives in silence and proliferates in the dark. And the sad truth is that believers are not in any way, shape or form impervious to its lure."

Focus on the Family's Daniel Weiss agrees. "The church needs to be concerned about this," Weiss, senior analyst for media and sexuality, told Baptist Press. "I'm concerned the church is not



taking this seriously enough. The number of people coming to this ministry looking for help is pretty high."

"The test of character is what you'll do when no one's looking. That's true on the Internet as well, and a lot of people are failing that test when it comes to this material. Part of the reason is that it's highly addictive stuff."

"It's kind of like putting a really desirable drug on the table and then just saying, 'I'm not going to touch that.' A lot of people are going to try it if it's sitting there long enough. It draws a lot of people in, and it draws Christians in as well."

Porn's usage among Christians is significant enough that a growing number of ministries and Christian publishers are releasing materials designed to encourage mental purity and to help those with addictions. The book *Every Man's Battle* by Stephen Arterburn, Fred Stoeker, and Mike Yorkey remains a popular resource and has seen spinoffs aimed at young, single men, women, and even small groups.

Christian singer Clay Crosse wrote a book with his wife Renee, *I Surrender All: Rebuilding a Marriage Broken by Pornography*, detailing his victory over porn addiction. The ministry Freedom Begins Here ([FreedomBeginsHere.org](http://FreedomBeginsHere.org)) has a "personal toolkit" for individuals as well as resources for small groups featuring Gary Smalley, Ted Cunningham, and Mark and Deb Laaser.

The group Music for the Soul has made a DVD named *Somebody's Daughter* ([www.somebodysdaughter.org](http://www.somebodysdaughter.org)) featuring gripping testimonies from four Christian men who were addicted to porn. The DVD also includes the testimony from a wife. Music for the Soul also sells a discussion guide, and a CD with songs accompanies the DVD.

The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission ([ERLC.com/pornography](http://ERLC.com/pornography)) and Focus on the Family ([PureIntimacy.org](http://PureIntimacy.org)) have online resources.

Every home computer, the ministries say, should have an anti-porn filter. Two of the more popular ones can be downloaded at [InternetSafety.com](http://InternetSafety.com) and [BSecure.com](http://BSecure.com).

"We can try and write porn off in the church and say, 'Well it's not that bad, because I didn't really sleep with anybody,' but Jesus was clear about that," Music for the Soul's Steve Siler told BP. "He said if you've lusted after a woman in your heart you've committed adultery. That's not a parable that's hard to understand."

Porn's negative impact on marriages cannot be overstated, the report argues. It cites a Time magazine story about a 2003 meeting of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, where of the 350 attendees, 62% said the "Internet played a significant role in divorces in the past year, with excessive interest in online porn contributing to more than half of such cases."

For those marriages that survive, porn causes the men to lose the desire to have a physical relationship with their wives, the report says.

As Pamela Paul, one of the report's signers, wrote, Internet pornography touches "all aspects" of an addict's life. She penned a 2005 book about Internet porn addiction, *Pornified*.

"Their work days became interrupted, their hobbies were tossed aside, their family lives were disrupted," Paul wrote. "Some men even lost their jobs, their wives, and their children."

The report quotes one scientist who says frequent pornography users devel-

op "new maps" in their brains based on the pictures and videos they see. Those news maps develop a "hunger to be stimulated," so much so that the men at their computers are like rats in a lab cage, "pressing the bar to get a shot of dopamine or its equivalent."

Exacerbating the problem, pornography by its very nature de-sensitizes men so much that images they once would have thought disgusting they now find appealing. To reach the same "high," they must try something new, the report says.

This slippery slope can even lead to the viewing of child porn, the report says.

The report also quotes a 2009 Princeton University study that used MRI scans to study brain activity. The study showed that "after viewing pornographic images, men looked at women more as objects than as humans."

Pornography is, the report says, "one of the great social diseases."

"The triad of pornography consumption, dependency, and addiction is clearly not the only problem facing our society. However, it is a serious problem as well as an under-recognized one, which is why the signatories urge readers of all beliefs and political persuasions to attend to the empirical record of its harms," the report says.

"Those who would ignore that record do so to the detriment of the society it is shaping, not only for the adults among us, but for those others who surely deserve to become adults in a world less glutted by pornographic imagery."

*Editor's note: This is part of a special four-part series of Baptist Press stories about Internet porn addiction. For others in the series, visit [www.bpnews.net](http://www.bpnews.net) and search for "Internet porn addiction" (with the phrase in quotes).*